



SEP 26 2001

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Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

Subject: Yucca Mountain comments.

I have followed the Yucca Mountain repository program from its inception, and the technical problems associated with spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste. I have also reviewed several key parts of the PSSE. I believe that the Yucca Mountain site is suitable for the development of a repository.

My opinion is based on the following general considerations. The analytical studies and modeling done to-date are probably as complete as can be done, and give substantial assurances that the foreseeable risks have been reasonably considered. Total system interactions can only be evaluated with full confidence after storage has been implemented. The preclosure retrievable and operational period of about 100 years would permit on-site scientific measurement and confirmation of the key assumptions used in the evaluation. These measurements would be most reassuring if the low temperature thermal operating mode is chosen for storage.

Considering the national need for management of spent fuel and high level waste, I consider the activation of the Yucca Mountain repository as the safest and most practical way to meet that need.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chauncey Starr".

Chauncey Starr  
President Emeritus